1st April 1958]

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR: Sir, I want to say one thing. The Hon. Minister was telling that if there had been victimisation in particular individual cases and if they were brought to the notice of the Government, the Minister would look into the matter. But, if such cases are brought out, the particular individual is likely to be misunderstood and he might be sacked by the head of the department. Therefore, will the Government consider the desirability of looking into each and every case when such cases of promotions or punishments occur and go to the extent of referring it to the Public Service Commission before decisions are taken?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Whenever there is any grievance and seniority overlooked, the aggrieved party has got the right of appeal. No officer would have left these things without taking proper steps for the purpose of rectifying these grievances. They have the right of appeal to Government, they can put in memorials to the Governor and in all those cases where there are differences of opinion, we refer it to the Public Service Commission and got their opinion also.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI: In the matter of recruitment and promotion equal treatment is guaranteed by the Constitution. So far as I understand, there are a lot of promotions, overlooking seniority—they have come to my knowledge as a casual observer. May I, therefore, ask the Hon. Finance Minister to make enquiries into the promotions done overlooking the seniority during this financial year, at least, and submit a statement to this Assembly, Sir?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The question is whether the promotions should be made strictly on seniority or merit also should be taken into consideration. If merit also should be taken into consideration, the question árises how that merit should be assessed. If any officer is overlooked and if he says he has got the merit, it is because in the assessment of merit difference of opinion arises. I do not think any officer would admit that he does not have the merit and always he makes out a case that an injustice had been done to him. I may assure the hon. Member whenever such promotion is made and when seniority is overlooked, we do receive appeal petitions from the officers concerned and we go into the whole matter and consult the Public Service Commission also. It is not as though the officers are helpless and they do not know the procedure. They submit appeals to Government and memorials to the Governor and their cases are properly looked into at that stage.

Pension

*500 Q.—SRI T. T. DANIEL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of pension applications of Government servants pending disposal, districtwar?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The number of pension applications of Government servants pending disposal in each district is as follows :—

1	Tirunelveli	39
2	Kanyakumari	89
3	Ramanathapuram	32
4	Madurai	48
5	Tanjore	26
6	Tiruchirappalli	46
7	Salem	46
8	Coimbatore	50
9	Nilgiris	7
10	South Arcot	42
11	North Arcot	30
12	Chingleput	25
13	Madras	112
	Total	592

SRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI : தலைவர் அவர்களே, இவைகளையெல்லாம் கூடிய சீக்கிரம் கொடுப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடுகளை சர்க்கார் செய்வார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : கூடிய சீக்கிரம் செய்யப்பட்டுத் தான் வருகிறது என்பதை கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்களுக்கு சொல்லிக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். இவைகளை எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் செய்யவேண்டுமோ அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் செய்வதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : In certain cases, Government servants do not get pensions even after the expiry of three years; even after three years' period, in certain cases pension has not been sanctioned. In certain cases they die even before they get their pensions. Will Government consider this question and see that pension is sanctioned within six months—they may even fix a time-limit—so that those who depend on this for their sustenance may not have to wait for long?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think there are such cases pending for two or three years. There may be one or two cases and there may be difficulties and even in such cases, provisional amount is fixed as pension pending finalisation of the actual amount of pension. The hon. Member's charge that there are many cases pending for two or three years, I do not think, is correct as at present.

Leprosy hospital

* 501 *Q.*—SRI A. R. MARIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to open a leprosy hospital at Orathanad taluk in the Tanjore district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Government propose to open a Leprosy Subsidiary Centre in Tanjore district during 1958–59, but the location of the centre has not been settled.